

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
and Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** Dorothy VanLooy  
Director

**DATE:** September 11, 2002

**SUBJECT:** New Grant Opportunity: 2002-03 Refugee Children School  
Impact Grant (Form FS-4981-I)

The Michigan Department of Education has received a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services to assist districts in educating refugee children and youth. Local school districts, intermediate school districts, and public school academies are eligible to apply for Refugee Children School Impact grant funds. Funds will be awarded if the number of refugee children and youth to be served by the district, in public and nonpublic schools, is equal to at least 30 students. If the district or public school academy does not have at least 30 refugee students, the district or public school academy may enter into a consortium to apply for Refugee grant funds.

Your assistance is being requested to identify and report on the number and country of origin of refugee children and youth in your school district or public school academy. Although our office is requesting that the data be supplied on the Part I form (enclosed), this data must also be entered into the Single Record Student Database (SRSD) during this school year. Beginning with the 2003-04 school year, refugee student data from the SRSD will be used to allocate grant funds. No other data collection method will be used.

Local school districts may include refugee children and youth who are enrolled in nonpublic schools to whom they provide services. Because this is the first year of a 3-year cycle, it is particularly important that all districts with refugee students complete and return the enclosed form so that information about the number and location of refugee children can assist in program planning for future years.

Enclosed is Part I of the 2002-03 Refugee Children School Impact Grant: Count of Eligible Refugee Children and Youth (Form FS-4981-I). This form must be completed by districts that wish to receive funds under this grant. Please provide the student information based on the count of eligible students as of September 25, 2002. This form is due in the Office of Field Services no later than October 25, 2002.

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Under this grant, services will address the children's needs in four broad areas: School Entry Preparation Services; English Language Skills; Meeting Curricular Standards; and Partnerships with Refugee Service Providers to Assist Transition. The first area will include health screening to diagnose physical and emotional problems and the necessary follow-up services to prepare children for school. The second area will help refugee children to acquire oral and written fluency in the English language. The third area will provide instructional support services to enable refugee children to meet the State's curriculum and achievement standards. The fourth area will help refugee children and their families to make a successful transition into American society.

The definition of a refugee student is any student who:

1. is aged 3 through 18;
2. whose parents are outside any country of such family's nationality or, in the case of a person's having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion;
3. has resided in the United States 3 years or less; and
4. is enrolled in public or non-public elementary or secondary schools.

After October 25, 2002, when all Part I applications have been returned, the Department will send the districts with 30 or more eligible students an application packet containing an allocation notice, Part II of the application, and an evaluation form.

If you have any questions about the Refugee Children School Impact Grant, or need assistance in completing this form, please contact Dr. Mazin Heiderson in the Office of Field Services by email at [heidersonm@mi.gov](mailto:heidersonm@mi.gov) or by phone at 517-373-6066.

Enclosure